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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/832,910	04/12/2001	Reinhard Hilger	16202.590	1651
7590	06/18/2004			
Joseph W. Berenato, III Liniak, Berenato, Longacre & White, LLC 6550 Rock Springs Drive, Ste.240 Bethesda, MD 20817			EXAMINER HYLTON, ROBIN ANNETTE	
			ART UNIT 3727	PAPER NUMBER 10
DATE MAILED: 06/18/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/832,910

Applicant(s)

HILGER ET AL.

Examiner

Robin A. Hylton

Art Unit

3727

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 June 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 9-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 9-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. The finality of the previous Office action has been vacated. An action on the merits follows.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-6 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ohmura et al. (US 5,901,869). The spring-biased locking struts 3 are effective to maintain the cap in the filler neck.
4. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hukuta et al (US 4,160,511). The spring-biased locking struts 11 are effective to maintain the cap in the filler neck.
5. Claims 1-6 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nehls (US 3,136,148). The spring-biased locking struts 22 are effective to maintain the cap in the filler neck which engage a pair of complementary engagement elements 44 of the filler neck.
6. Claims 1-6, 9-16, 18, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Baugh (US 3,682,345).

Art Unit: 3727

To the degree set forth, neck 10 is a filler neck in that it is used to fill the container. The engagement groove of the closure cap lies between the thread crowns. Wherein the deformable locking device 14 or 29 maintains the cap engaged with the filler neck and is compressed and flattens as the cap is threaded onto the filler neck, i.e., at a region of transition, it is effective at least at a region of transition from the axial path to the circumferential path.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohmura.

Ohmura teaches a gasket 21a in a groove adjacent the unnumbered engaging groove.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute an O-ring gasket for the square gasket of Ohmura, since the examiner takes Official Notice of the equivalence of square gaskets and O-ring gaskets for their use in the closure art and the selection of any of these known equivalents to provide a fluid-tight seal between the cap and an associated container neck would be within the level of ordinary skill in the art.

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments filed June 13, 2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

It is first noted that no agreement of patentability was reached at the interview of June 11, 2003. The interview summary record states the proposed claims *appeared* to overcome the art of record, not that they were allowed over the art of record.

Art Unit: 3727

Regarding applicant's arguments that the applied art to Baugh does not teach the locking device is effective at least in the transitional region from the axial to the circumferential paths, applicant's attention is directed to column 3, lines 59-61 which indicates the locking device is compressed and flattened when the cap is screwed onto the filler neck. Similarly, the locking device in the second embodiment is effective at the same region. Wherein screwing occurs at the end of the axial travel path, the region of transition from the axial path to the circumferential path is the same for the structure of Baugh and the instant invention.

Conclusion

10. In order to reduce pendency and avoid potential delays, Group 3720 is encouraging FAXing of responses to Office Actions directly into the Group at (703) 872-9306. This practice may be used for filing papers not requiring a fee. It may also be used for filing papers which require a fee by applicants who authorize charges to a PTO deposit account. Please identify the examiner and art unit at the top of your cover sheet. Papers submitted via FAX into Group 3720 will be promptly forwarded to the examiner.

11. It is called to applicant's attention that if a communication is faxed before the reply time has expired, applicant may submit the reply with a "Certificate of Facsimile" which merely asserts that the reply is being faxed on a given date. So faxed, before the period for reply has expired, the reply may be considered timely. A suggested format for a certificate follows:

I hereby certify that this correspondence for Application Serial No. _____ is being facsimiled to The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office via fax number (703) 872-7306 on the date shown below:

Typed or printed name of person signing this certificate

Signature _____

Date _____

Art Unit: 3727

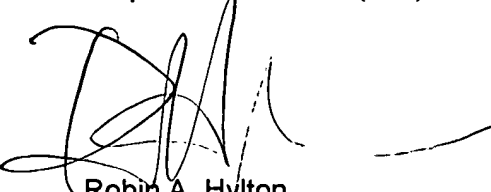
12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robin Hylton whose telephone number is (703) 308-1208. The examiner works a flexible schedule, but can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Eastern time).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lee Young, can be reached on (703) 308-2572.

If in receiving this Office Action it is apparent to applicant that certain documents are missing, e.g., copies of references cited, form PTO-1449, form PTO-892, etc., requests for copies of such papers should be directed to Technology Center 3700 Customer Service Office at (703) 306-5648.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1148.

RAH
June 12, 2004



Robin A. Hylton
Primary Examiner
GAU 3727